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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /100 W
----------102503 041516Z /41
P 041314Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7928
INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
CINCPAC HONOLULU, HI
COMIDEASTFOR

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 1560

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MPOL, PROP, ET, FR, UK, US, NATO
SUBJECT: REPORTED NATO NAVAL EXERCISE IN RED SEA
CONDEMNED BY ETHIOPIA

SUMMARY AND COMMENT: CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY
OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC GUIDANCE (MININFO)
CAMPAIGN TO EXACERBATE RELATIONS BETWEEN ETHIOPIA
AND WESTERN COUNTRIES, MINISTRY SPOKESMAN ISSUED
STRONG STATEMENT APRIL 3 COMMENTING ON TASS AND
LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH REPORTS THAT 14 BRITISH,
AMERICAN AND FRENCH WARSHIPS ARE PROCEEDING TO
RED SEA TO PARTICIPATE IN NAVAL MANEUVERS OFF
ETHIOPIA'S SHORES. MININFO SPOKESMAN CLAIMED
"HIGHLY PROVOCATIVE AND TRANSPARENTLY INTIMIDATING"
NATO EXERCISE IS DESIGNED TO INCREASE TENSION IN
HORN OF AFRICA. IT IS INTERESTING THAT ETHIOPIA'S
REACTION TO REPORTED NAVAL EXCERCISE WAS ISSUED
BY MININFO AND NOT FOREIGN MINISTRY (MOFA) OR MINISTRY
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OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, WHICH WOULD NORMALLY EXPRESS OFFICIAL
ETHIOPIAN POSITIONS ON MATTERS OF THIS NATURE. END
SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

1. UNLIKE SOME INSTANCES IN PAST WHEN ETHIOPIAN
MOFA HAS FIRST SOUGHT CLARIFICATION OF FOREIGN PRESS
REPORTS ABOUT US ACTIVITIES IN AREA FROM EMBASSY,

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MININFO HAS ACCEPTED TASS REPORT OF NATO NAVAL
EXERCISE IN RED SEA AT FACE VALUE. ACCUSATIONS
THAT MANEUVERS BY "14 BRITISH, AMERICAN AND FRENCH
WARSHIPS IN UNPRECEDENTED SHOW OF FORCE IN THIS PART OF
WORLD AT THIS JUNCTURE ARE NEITHER ACCIDENTAL NOR
FORTUITOUS" CLOSELY PARALLEL STANDARD SOVIET
PROPAGANDA ON RED SEA NAVAL ACTIVITY. FURTHER, MININFO
CLAIM THAT PURPOSE OF NATO EXERCISE IS "TO INTIMIDATE
THIS COUNTRY AND INFUSE MORALE INTO COMPLETELY
CHASTISED AND CHASTENED RULING CLASSES IN SOMALIA"
IS PART OF ON-GOING EFFORT TO PAINT NATO POWERS
AS ETHIOPIA'S ENEMIES AND SOMALIA'S BENEFACTORS.

2. MININFO SPOKESMAN CONTINUED THAT "WASHINGTON-LONDON-
PARIS AXIS, BY AIMING TO INCREASE TENSION IN HORN, IS
SABOTAGING INITIATIVES BEING TAKEN BY WELL-INTENTIONED
QUARTERS, INCLUDING OAU AND FRIENDLY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES TO
RESTORE PEACE AND STABILITY." SPOKESMAN FURTHER ALLEGED
THAT UNREST AND INSTABILITY ON AFRICAN CONTINENT,
PARTICULARLY IN STRATEGIC RED SEA REIONG "SUITS EVIL
PURPOSES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPERIALISM." SPOKESMAN
CONCLUDED WITH DAILY REFRAIN THAT KEY TO LASTING PEACE
AND STABILITY IN HORN IS SOMALIA'S IMMEDIATE AND UN-
CONDITIONAL RENUNCIATION OF ALL TERRITORIAL
CLAIMS ON ITS NEIGHBORS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: MPOL, PROP, ET, FR, UK, US, NATO
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